



Marine Corps Base Quantico Munitions Response Program Study in the Area of Russell Elementary School and the Child Development Center, Munitions Response Site UXO 021

What's going on?

The area of Russell Elementary School and the Child Development Center North have been identified for a Munitions Response Program investigation due to the upcoming demolition of Russell Elementary School that is required to make room for the new middle/high school. An investigation will be conducted to identify and mitigate any munitions and explosives of concern and material potentially presenting an explosive hazard. This area is part of Munitions Response Site Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) 021 used for training over 70 years ago. Marine Corps Base Quantico is working with Marine Corps Community Services, the Department of Defense Education Activity, Naval Facilities Engineering Command Washington, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to perform the study.

Site History

UXO 21 encompasses 285 acres (Figure 1) and was used from approximately 1935 to 1943 as a training area. The area identified for the study consists of approximately 19 acres in the northern portion of UXO 21, including the area around Russell Elementary School and the Child Development Center.

Previous Investigations and Actions

Previous investigations and surface cleanup actions have been completed. In 2001, two 81-mm rounds and a 3-inch Stokes mortar round were discovered and removed during re-grading and construction of baseball fields. Other studies and removal actions have been completed in the forest area south of the school. A second, more detailed investigation for the entirety of UXO 021 is anticipated to begin after the demolition of Russell Elementary, in the Fall of 2015. Although there is no evidence that buried UXO poses a reason for unnecessary concern, safely surveying old ranges is a necessary part of the construction process at Quantico.

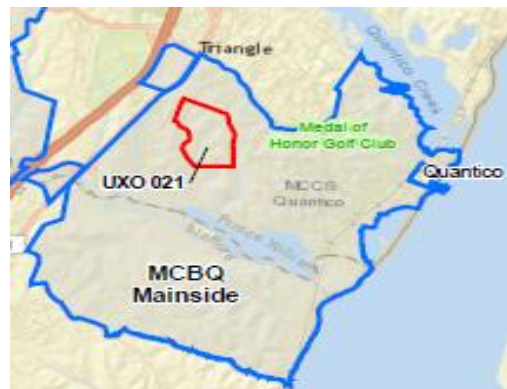


Figure 1



Figure 2

Current Status

The study has mapped 15 of the accessible 19 acres (Figure 2, area in yellow) for subsurface metallic anomalies using an advanced geophysical technology; the remaining area will be mapped after the school building and associated features are removed. This technology will identify the presence of subsurface metallic anomalies and classify the anomalies as potential munitions or non-munitions items. For the area mapped to date, the next phase is to manually dig at approximately 300 locations to confirm anomalies as munitions or non-munitions and remove any items of concern. This phase will be performed primarily on weekends when the Child Development Center and schools are unoccupied, and will require temporary closure of portions of near-by roads and trails. This phase is expected to begin in mid-October 2015 and last approximately six days. Any periodic closures will be coordinated with the appropriate entities.

Additional Information

For more information contact the Restoration Program Manager, Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Branch, (703) 432-0521.